April 14, 2015

Dear Senator / Representative,

I am writing on behalf of the Florida Library Association and its 900+ members to thank you for your support for our nation’s libraries and to ask for your continued support. Here are our issues:

**Library Services & Technology Act Funding (LSTA)** - Please support funding of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) at $186.6 million for 2016. LSTA benefits Floridians through essential services including statewide services like the Florida Electronic Library (flelibrary.org) and grants to local communities. Services include:

- Florida Electronic Library's licensed information products
- Technology training
- Early learning programs
- Florida's youth program
- Literacy programs
- E-Government services training
- Digitization of culture resources
- Outreach to persons with special needs

LSTA, the only federal program solely for libraries, is administered nationally by the Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS) and is funded through the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies budget. LSTA is administered in Florida by the Department of State's Division of Library and Information Services. Florida's LSTA 2014 allocation is $8,048,596.

**Access to Federally Funded Research** – Floridians benefit greatly from free access to federally funded research, as students, teachers, innovators, and citizens. Taxpayers already paid for the research, they should not pay again to read the results. The Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR) was introduced in February 2013 with bi-partisan support. It was re-filed in March 2015 in the Senate by Sen. Cornyn and in the House by Rep. Doyle. FASTR should be passed to codify White House Directives calling for public access to federally funded research and to extend measures in the FY 2015 Consolidated Appropriations Bill. We oppose unnecessarily long embargo periods and other measures that restrict public access.

**Support School Libraries Through Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL)!** - Please level fund IAL at $25 million for 2016. At least half of IAL funding is allocated as competitive grants for underserved school libraries and the remainder through competitive grants for national non-profit organizations to improve childhood literacy.
Elementary & Secondary Education (ESEA) – Support school libraries by reauthorizing and revising ESA to require that every student have access to an “effective school library program” defined to require that every school library be staffed by a certified librarian; equipped with up-to-date materials and technology; and enriched by a curriculum jointly developed by a grantee’s school librarians and classroom teachers.

Net Neutrality – An open Internet is essential to freedom of speech, educational achievement, and our nation’s economic growth. Please oppose legislation and administrative action that fails to protect open Internet principles or assure equitable access to online information, applications, and services for all.

Government Information – Pass critical Freedom of Information Act reforms to ensure public access to unique collections held by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). Creation of a single repository for its unique scientific and technical collections will ensure that this information be preserved and available to the public.

Privacy & Surveillance – Restore the Constitutional privacy rights of library users and all Americans lost to the overbroad, invasive and insufficiently “checked and balanced” USA Patriot Act, FISA Amendments, and Electronic Communications Privacy Acts. Government access to your library borrowing and Internet use records should require a warrant. We support legislation, like Senator Leahy’s USA FREEDOM ACT, which helps put a stop to warrantless surveillance.

Copyright – Ratify the Marrakesh Treaty for the print disabled and reject unneeded changes to copyright law in any implementing legislation. This will provide 4 million print disabled Americans access to copyrighted material worldwide vital to their education, work, and quality of life. Respect the rights of authors and the framer’s intent that copyright “Promote the Progress of Science and the useful Arts.”

Support National Historical Publications & Records Commission Grants (NHPRC) - The grants benefit Florida’s archives and historical groups, enabling them to preserve and publish historical records that document Florida and American history and make historical information more accessible.

Funding for Other Library Programs - Fully fund the Library of Congress, the Government Printing Office, and the National Archives and Records Administration.

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Florida and please keep these requests in mind as your work on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Linda McCarthy
President
Florida Library Association

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